

40. Ants *

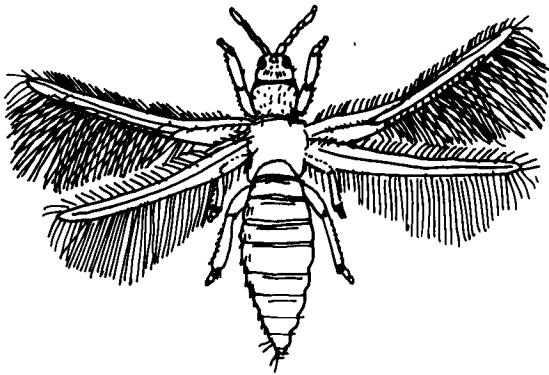
TRAITS: Body clearly divided into 3 segments by narrow constrictions; last segment forms a pointed end; only certain kinds of adults have wings.

HABITAT: In colonies in the ground or wood.

FOODS: Varies between species; some feed on flower nectar, plant juices, or aphid honeydew; others feed on seeds, leaves, or dead organisms, and some are predators on other insects.

EATEN BY: Flickers, wrens, thrushes, sparrows.

"GEE WHIZ": Some ants protect aphids from predators, then feed on the sugary secretion (honeydew) that aphids produce.



41. Thrips T

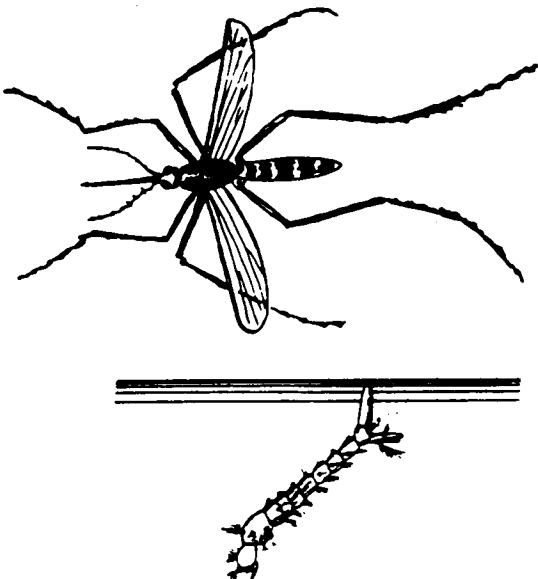
TRAITS: Tiny winged or wingless long-bodied insects; if winged, they have four narrow wings with fringes of long hairs; antennae, and tube-like mouthparts.

HABITAT: Flowers, leaves of plants.

FOODS: Most eat flowers, leaves, buds, and fruits; a few eat fungal spores or mites and small insects.

EATEN BY: Warblers, chickadees, creepers, wrens, ants, hornets, ground beetles, and lacewings.

"GEE WHIZ": Some carry microscopic organisms that cause plant diseases.



42. Mosquitos *

TRAITS: Small insects with long legs, one pair of clear wings, piercing and sucking mouthparts form a tube; males have feather-like antennae.

HABITAT: Larvae live in water; adults are found in most habitats; males are often found in or near flowers.

FOODS: Larvae feed on algae, protozoans, and dead plants; adult males feed on flower nectar, while adult females suck the blood of animals.

EATEN BY: Bats, dragonflies, fish, phalaropes, sandpipers, swallows, warblers, and frogs.

"GEE WHIZ": Males pollinate flowers; females can carry certain microscopic organisms that cause diseases in mammals and birds.